



Exploring “Death Register” in Norway

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This class is designed to teach family history researchers how to find ancestors in the Death Register for Norway.

Objectives:

Patrons will be able to find ancestors in the Death register online.

Dødsmeldinger (Death Register)

Death register are a source not often used in searching for ancestors in Norway, but they may list information about both families and properties not found anywhere else. Probate records (skifteprotokoller) are often used, but not everyone who died left a probate. However, there should be a death register listed for every person. This includes the very young to the very old, and it does not matter if a person was rich or poor. Often a whole family is listed in a death register.

The *Sorenskriver* or Judge was usually the authority over both probates and death register, but as he could not do everything himself, he relied heavily on the sheriff (Lensmann) and therefore gave him power to deal with such cases. As soon as a person died, the sheriff was to be notified and to keep a record in the Dødsmeldings protokoll (Death Register records). This dates back to a law of 1792 and is still the law today.

Accessing the Death Register

Death Register are available at the respective archives in Norway, many are online at the Digital Archives of Norway in a scanned format. These online scanned records are not complete for the whole country as of yet, but they are well worth searching if your area has been scanned. The plan is that every person who died in Norway- or was born in Norway and died elsewhere will be included. Therefore, there will be many who came from Norway, but died in the USA.

You will find them by going to the Digital Archives main page.

<http://arkivverket.no/eng/digitalarkivet>

- First click on “Digitised Probate Documents,” which brings you to a page with several options.

- Find "Source type" and left click in the box below and you should now see several topics.
- Choose "Death Register."

If you want to see the death registers for all of Norway click on "Search" below. If you want to narrow your search to a county, go to "county" and left click on the box below. Choose a county from the list, and click on "Search." You may also narrow your search by choosing a parish within a county by choosing a parish in the box under "Municipality."

Let us say you are looking for a death record in Krødsherad parish in Buskerud County and find that the records are available in *volume 1 from 1820-1916, vol. 2 1917-1922, vol. 3 1922-1933, vol. 4 1933-1942*. Let us say the person you are looking for died in 1820. Choose volume 1 1820-1916 and click on "First page" next to these years. Here you will see that the death notices are listed chronologically by year and date. The first notice is for Farmer Guttorm Olsen of Hovden farm, who died 28 September 1820 and his death was reported to the sheriff 5 October 1820. The next column states that he has heirs and they are of age (age 25 and older) as well as under age (under age 25).

You should now be able to search the "Death register"

Death register usually include the name of the deceased, occupation, residence, age, and date of death, but many include more detailed information about the family.

Make sure you check the "Death registers" often as this is a work in progress and more information is added continually.

See: https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Norway_Death_Notices

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